by (he State Government. Extension plantations are being taken up under Fuelwood and fodder project schemes and also rehabilitation of degraded forests in the State.

(e) The State Government have approved Schemes for raising plantations under fuelwood and fodder project and rehabilitation of degraded forests.

Tree Growers Co-perative Project in Rajasthan, Orissa and Tamil Nadu

4381. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swedea has provided any Aid to Support a new "TREE GROWERS CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT" in Rajasthan, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. If so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have signed any Agreement to this effect with some other countries also; and

(c) if so, the manner in which this project is proposed to be fundel and the General Assistance proposed to be provided State-wise during 1992-93 and actually given till date particularly to Rajasthan and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF (ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) to (c) An agreement has been sigsed on 30th July, 1992 with the Government of Sweden for obtaining finnacial assistance to implement the Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project in Rajasthan, Orrisa and Tamil Tadu. The Assistance will be in form of Palmolein oil which will be received and monetized by the National Dairy Development Board and the funds so generated will be placed at the disposal of the National Tree Growers' Co-operatives Federation Limited, which is the implementsg agency. The total project cost is Rs. 24.47 crores oper a contribution will he about 75 per cent tJnder the project, 100 tree An area comprising 4430 hectares of private land and 5250 heltares of common land is proposed to be covered usder the project.

The appraised project document (APO) provides for the allocation of Rs. 2.1 million each to Rajasthan, Orrisa and Tamil Nadu for setting up tree growers cooperatives in the first year of implementation. However, the agreement having been signed only on 30th July. 1992 the final allocation is still to be decided.

The Government have not signed any other agreement with other coustriesfor setting up Tree Growers Cooperatives. However, negotiations are in process with the Canadian Government for their providing external assistance to set up Tree Growers Cooperatives in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. The tentative cost of the project, under which it is proposed to set up 100 Tree Growers Cooperatives in each State, is about Rs. 44 crores.

Violation of prevention of cruelty to Animals Act in Bombay

4382. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crimes against animals are committed at. the De-onar abattoir, Bombay by those incharge of it as well as by those misusing it in violation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, I960, as reported in the Sunday Observer, New Delhi of 2nd August, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that animals are brought to Bombay in congested trucks and lorries in shocking conditions resulting in death of many animals due to suffocation;

(d) whether it i_s also a fact that acid is poured into their nostrils and tobacco is rubbed into their eyes so that the animals stand up for slaughter; and

(e) what action. Govemment have taken or propose to take to' check the crimes being committed against animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND

FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Mouse. However, it is reported that allegations in this regard have been made in the Court of the Metropolitan Magistrate at Kurla, Bombay and are being investigated.

Emission of pollutant gases by travancore Titanium products

43«3. SHRI SOM PAL:

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollutant .gases emitted by the Travancore Titanium Products arc beyond permissible limits;

(b) what is the permissible limit of such gases and what is the actual quan turn of gases being omitted by the unit; and

(c) what aution is proposed to be taken against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Sulphur dioxide emissions at times exceed the limit from the sulphuric acid plant of Travancore Titanium Products, even though a Double Conversion Double Absorption system has been adopted. Permissible limit for sulphur dioxide from an acid plant is 1500 milligrams Per normal cubic metre. Occasional excessive emission upto 2700 milligrams per normal cubic metre has been observed from the unit in the last two years. Excessive emissions occur for quarter of an hour during start up.

(c) The Kerala Pollution Control Board has directed the Travancore Titanium Products to replace the existing acid plant with a new one of 300 tons per day capacity with an extra catalyst bed and a start up scrubber, and with an on line sulphur dioxide monitor. The unit has also initiated work on installation of pollution control measures which includes a combination of 14 digestor stacks and raising the height of 2(i stacks from the digestor, boiler, cakiner, grinding njill and spray drier to 25 metres, as in the acid plant.

Forest area in the country

4384. SHRI SOM PAL:

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Wil: the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total forest area in the country;

(b) what is the State-wise breakup of, the forest area;

(c) The land which has been earmarked by Government for afforestation;

(d) whether some concrete plans have been formulated for bringing the area so earmarked under green cover; and

(e) if so, what is the time-frame, modalities and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The total recorded forest area in the country as per the "State of Forest Report 1991' is 770078 Sq. Kms.

(b) The State-wise break-up of the forest area in the country is detailed in the Statement. *(See'* below).

(c) No specific land is earmarked for afforestation. However, afforestation is done largely in degraded forests and also along roads, canal banks, railway lines, fields bunds and public and private wastelands as per the availability of funds.

(d) and (e) A massive programme of afforestation including Social and Farm Forestry under the 20 Point Programme is (unde;- impiementation in all the States/ Union Territories. During the VHth Five Year Plan 8.88 million hectares were brought under afforestaton and in the Eighth Five Year Plan, there is a proposal to cover an area of 18 million hectares under forest/tree cover, at a proposed outlay of Rs. 9950 crores.